

Book Reviews

A Voyage of self-discovery

April Ashley's Odyssey — Duncan Fallowell and April Ashley (Jonathan Cape, £8.50)

For once, "Odyssey" is an apt title for an autobiography, for April Ashley's life has been a voyage, a search, to discover first what she is and secondly who she is. Now this may sound rather pretentious and April would be the first to agree. But a search it has been nevertheless, albeit one for which she did not specifically ask. Two things conspired against her — the relentless hunger of the media for sensation, and the so-called Swinging Sixties. A number of fairly well-known men have changed sex quietly and discreetly, but George Jameson (April Ashley's lesbian name) fell into the hands of the Sunday papers. Re-making a life as a successful model after a courageous and uncomfortably well-described operation, her secret was discovered. Then, after a spectacularly troubled marriage to Arthur Corbett, son of a peer, she found herself in the courts fighting, unsuccessful, by Terence Pettigrew (Penguin, £4.95).

Of all the film stars of the thirties and forties, Humphrey Bogart is the one who has most readily captured the imagination of young cineastes. In this pleasing study, marred only by sloppy sub-editing, particularly in matters of punctuation, Terence Pettigrew attempts, with some success, to explain why the Bogart persona — the emotionally scarred, wary loner, staying on the outside of events under circumstances force him in — is so engrossing.

To be cynical about it, it is because those are the roles he played best and Bogart did not unduly stretch himself, the pictures made for his own company following this line and being among the least satisfactory he ever acted in. Illustrated with stills from most of his films, the book includes a thorough filmography and particulars of his early stage career. **PH**

Obituary

Although best known for his playing of rugged or smooth, upper lip Englishmen on the screen, **KENNETH MORE**, who has died after a long illness at the age of 67, was a light comedy actor of rare distinction. It was unfortunate that we saw him so little in this kind of part. He was born in Gerrards Cross, and spent his childhood in the Channel Islands. His first theatre experience was at the Windmill Theatre as a stage hand, understudying and playing in sketches. He was in repertory at Newcastle and Wolverhampton until the start of the Second World War, when he joined the RNRV. He returned to his profession in 1946, in Noel Coward's "Peace in Our Time", and embarked on his "very successful film career".

It was in 1952 that he found fame in the theatre overnight, as Freddie, the RAF pilot who is having an affair with a judge's wife, in Terence Rattigan's "The Deep Blue Sea". This was a performance of depth and truth, with a quality totally convincing theatrical effectiveness.

More and more films occupied his time, but he was in theatre again in Giles Cooper's "Out of the Crocodile" and a musical version of "The Admirable Crichton". One of his best later performances in the theatre was as a Labour Member of Parliament in Alan Bennett's "Getting On". For many critics and theatre-goers, however, his finest work of all came with his Hugh Walford in William Douglas Home's "The Secretary Bird", which had a long run at the Savoy. Here, More showed his fine comic sense and an incredibly light touch; his charm was at its most pleasing; and out of slim material he created a memorable study, which many people considered to be the Ronald Square class — a verdict which delighted More, for Square was his first hero-actor of the theatre.

ART PEPPER, whose playing and personal life alike underwent rehabilitation in recent years in the Panama City, California on June 15. He was 56. Born in Gardena, California, Pepper, primarily an alto sax player, was a production of the big band era, a member of Gus Arnheim and Benny Carter's orchestras. He had been Stan Kenton. He had three spells with the Kenton band, the first being interrupted by two years in the army, but his reputation rested chiefly on his small group work. A victim of heroin addiction since the fifties, he was in San Quentin prison for three years and later committed himself to the Californian centre Synanon. In 1975, however, he re-emerged on the jazz scene and established himself again as a musician of striking individuality, making several appearances in this.

GEORGE YOUNG McDONALD (france of actor of Dundee Repertory Theatre, died aged 64 after collapsing in his office at the theatre.

successfully, for the right to be regarded as a woman, a battle which transsexuals have still not won.

Apart from the major personal portions of the book — Jameson's happy childhood in Liverpool, confinement in a mental hospital, a brief and traumatic period in the Merchant Navy among them — the book also covers April Ashley's considerable show business career with amusing frankness. As Toni April (before the operation) she was a leading light of the famous Paris drag club Le Carrousel, in company with Coccinelle, Les Lee and Peki D'Oslo (né Alain Tapp and now better known as Amanda Lear). Subsequently, she had other forays into the business — I myself will remember her season at the Astor — before her ill-starred venture with the AD8 restaurant.

Now, after heart attacks brought on largely by booze, pills and late nights, she has found a kind of peace at Hay-on-Wye, that strangest of small towns. But her book is full of a restlessness which hints that cosy retirement is not quite her cup of tea. **Peter Hepple**

Radio's Golden Years, by Vincent Terrace (Tantivy Press, £8.95)

The golden age of American radio remains an unknown quantity to the British, though the more elderly of us can remember catching its flavour during World War II and immediately after when the BBC and, of course, the American Forces Network, treated us to the delights of Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Fred Allen and "Duffy's Tavern" — "where the elite meet to eat".

A work of pure reference, this book lists all the major networked shows between the years 1930 and 1960, many of which had lives not just of years but of decades. Not only comedy, but drama and music are included, with casts, sponsors, descriptions of format, producing companies and, for the most popular, introductory announcements. **PH**



• **SUZI JEROME** looks perplexed, sandwiched on the settee between **TREVOR BANNISTER** and **HENRY MCGEE**, with **JAN HUNT** and **MARGARET ASHCROFT** making threatening gestures behind. A scene from Derek Benfield's new comedy "Touch and Go", which has been touring before settling down for the summer at the Pavilion, Weymouth.

ABERYSTWYTH

Aberystwyth Holiday Village
Jamie Adams, Burlington, Bobby Ray, Dave Stevens. (Cambrian).

Theatre y Werin

NUTCRACKER SWEET with Michael Aford, Claire Benedict, Stan Howard, Stuart Davies, Mark Osowski, Jamie Ripman, Olivia Shaw. Written by David Wood. July 20 to August 28.

AYR

Butlins Holiday Centre
Duggie Small, Geoff Graham, Bill Clement, Sandi Orr, Gaiety Dancers. Choreography by Sheridan Nicol. Musical director, Alex Calma. Stage manager, Steve Westwood (Peter de Rance, Chalmers Wood Ltd) Paul Gerard Trio. (Cambrian).

Civic

Victor Graham for Kyle and Carrick District Council presents the Graham Players.

Gaiety

Bernard Cotton for Kyle and Carrick District Council presents 1982 **GAILEY WHIRL** with the Alexander Brothers, New Ovation, Diana Bari, Jack Milroy and Mary Lee, Bruce McClure Dancers. Produced and choreographed by Bruce McClure. Musical director, Jim Cosker. Stage manager, John Seamen.

BABBACOMBE

Babbacombe Theatre
THE RAY ALAN SHOW with Kenneth McKellar, Peter Hudson, Emerson and Jayne, Patsy Maclean, Barbie Allen, Cathy Downey and Glyn Evans. Devised and directed by John Redgrave. Musical director, Paul Vincent.

BARMOUTH

Dyffryn Seaside Estate
Jack Booker and Wynn. (Cambrian).

BARRY ISLAND

Butlins
Johnny Brett Duo, Belinda Lee, Chas Burnett and Kym Allen. (Cambrian).

BEMBRIDGE

Warners Bembridge Holiday Centre
Bob Pegg Band, Barry and Julie Earnshaw, David Kaffes, Eve Christie, Van Anderson, Bert Weedon, Ronnie Carroll, Billy J. Kramer, Bernie Winters, Dallas Boys

BERWICK

Berwick Holiday Centre
Maxwell Plumm, Simon Lovell, Pea Green Philharmonic Puffery Set, Charles Duff, Anita Dubey, Beverly Andrews Dancers, Uncle Zeta, Mark Andrews, Lynn Marie Donohue, Adrian Shave, Lynn Craig, Fiona Leeming. Produced and directed by Paul Staniford. Entertainment manager, Andy Duval. Choreography by Beverly Andrews. Sound and lighting, Keith Percy. Musical director, Graham Colthorpe. (Barry Day Entertainments).

BEXHILL

De La Warr Pavilion
Channel Theatre Company (July 19 to September 11, Monday, Tuesday, Saturday); Trevor Daniels. (June 30 to September 22, Wednesday); Olde Tyne Music Hall with Michael Kilgarriff, Trevor Daniels, the Jenny Set. (July 1 to September 23, Thursday).

BLACKPOOL

Central Club
THE MIGHTY ATOM AND ROY SHOW. (June 25 to October 31).

Central Pier

Peter Webster presents LET'S HAVE FUN WITH THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS with Wyn Calvin, Barrie Wyndham, Ronnie Parnell, Jo Ronell, Montell and June, Marie Ashton Dancers. Produced and directed by Bruce McClure. Musical director, Norma Martin. Drums, John Watson. Company manager, Tommy Trafford.

Clarendon Hotel

Gez Jay Sounds, Terry, Jon Foley Disco.

Coronation Street Theatre

Voxsongs Universal present Buzz Hawkins, Mick Coleman. (Opened June 13).

Gaiety Cabaret Bar

Electric Theatre. (Opened June 28).

Grand

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. (July 5 to September 19).

Horsheshowbar

VIVA TROPICANA with Les Clark, J.J. King, Rosemarie Ford, Ruth Chapman, Joanne Campbell, Graham Maclean Dancers. Spoke. (May 23 to November 6).

Ice Dome

SHOWTIME ON ICE 82. (July 3 to October 30).

Imperial Hotel

Alan Gale presents THE NAUGHTY NINETIES with Alan Gale, Patricia Kay, Tony Leste, Gary Webb, Tina Thornton, David Paul, Ian Thomas, Helen Gee, David King, George Topham. (Opened June 14).

Layton Institute

SUMMER SPECTACULAR 1982 with Bob Kaye, Kelvin and Elaine, Glenn Weston, Alan White, Trevor Wallace, Ray Cornell Dancers, John Wall, Gary Nelson. (June 21 to October 9).

Musical Hall Tavern

THE AL JOLSON SHOW with Steve King, Burden and Moran, Patricia, George Raymond, Jeremy Simms, Reg Cornish, Trevor Dorking. Musical director, Eddy Peacock.

North Pier

Bernard Delfont and Richard M. Mills for Bernard Delfont Ltd present **SHOWTIME '82** with the Kranksies, the Black Abots, Price, Al Dean, Danielle Carson, Showtime Dancers. Directed by Allan Blackburn. Designed by Saxon Lucas. Choreography by Nina Howard. Lighting by Ken Miller. Musical director, Gwyn Davies. Company and stage manager, Dave Jackley. (Opened May 28).

Opera House

Bernard Delfont and Richard M. Mills for Bernard Delfont Ltd present **THE ALL LAUGHTER SHOW** with Little and Large, Dana, Michael Barrymore, Pepe and his Friends, Fabulous Waltzing Waters, Lisa Dawn Hart, Laughter Show Dancers. Directed by Peter Roberts. Choreography by George May. (Opened June 25).

South Pier

STARTIME '82 with Paul Shane, Black Onyx, Anderson Sisters. (Opened July 9).

Talbot Conservative Club

Laura and Terry Devon, Rebecca Storm (Tuesday, Wednesday), Al Haydon, Ray Colum (Friday to Sunday). (Opened July 20).

Tower

CIRCUS FANTASTIC '82 with the Rastellis, Trip Carben, Bob Branson, the Macives, the Savios, the Flying Germaines, Robert Brothers Camels and Llamas presented by Beverly Roberts, the Half Wits, Richter Troupe, Miss Barbara, Robert Brothers Ponies, Norman Barrett, Harold Holt. Directed by Dick Hurren. Musical director, Pat McCann.

Welcome Inn

Burtonwood Breweries in association with Summit presents **THE TYROLEAN SHOW** with Gustav Sulzenbacher, Carl Janson, Heidi Bell, Hans Lindhuber, Maria Dorf, Helga Sager.

BOGNOR REGIS

Butlins
John West Trio, Russ Stevens, Denny Hodge, Linda Collins and Rufus, Ken Harris, Patti Tootle, Cheryl Charles Duo. (Cambrian).

BORTH

Brynwen Holiday Estate
Mahogany, Dave Stevens and Dealer, Tyne and Wear, Andy Feet, Karen Webb, Mr E. Jamie Adams. (Cambrian).

BOURNEMOUTH

Pavilion
Michael White in association with Louis Benjamin presents **ANNE** with Charles West, Ursula Smith, Trevor Jones, Lorraine Grey, Peter Horri, Petra Siniawski, Louisa McCarthy, Annis Lucy Joslin, Charlotte Kates, Amanda Louise Woodford, Brent Verdon, Morgan Deane, John Lee Greene, Tony Rickell, Jean Fawcett, David Alder, Carrie Ellis, Susan Reave, Joff Gwynne-Davies, Joanne Zorian, Elaine Hallam, Peter St. James, Robert Locke. Directed by Peter Walker. Lighting by Richard Pilbrow and Spike Gadin. Associate producer, Andrew Brooks. Starring Willers, the Wychwoods, Remo and Jenny, Bizarro Sisters, Sammy Sunshine, Dave Woodbury Sound. Devised and produced by V. and J. Barnes. Choreography by Terry Squires. Costumes by Louise. Company and production manager, Sid Brooks.

Pier

Kimbell-Stephens Associates and Mark Furness present **GIVE US A CREW** with Lionel Blair, Ruth Madoc, Jeffrey Holland, Lesley North, Peter Sands, Mandy Perryment, Matthew Aldridge. Written by Michael Perteck. Directed by Lionel Blair. (Opened July 5).

Pier Approach Baths

George Baines Aqua Varieties Ltd present **BIG SPLASH — AQUA CIRCUS** with Diva Meters, Aqua Goons, Sid Brooks, Danny McCafferty, Phil Harford, Bill Maiden, Bob Pomeroy, Chris Whybald, Helga Mack, Lynn Enderby, Wendy Hogg, Audrey Steele, Denise Potter, Sonia Davies, Tina Skinner, Shelley Dobie, Tania Maidment, Hayley Richards, Donna Brooks, Skating Willers, the Wychwoods, Remo and Jenny, Bizarro Sisters, Sammy Sunshine, Dave Woodbury Sound. Devised and produced by V. and J. Barnes. Choreography by Terry Squires. Costumes by Louise. Company and production manager, Sid Brooks.

Winter Gardens

MAM in association with Handshake Ltd present **Canon and Ball**, Stutz Bear Cats, Franklin James, Peter Saint, Alan Harding Dancers. Directed by Peter Saint. Choreography by Alan Harding. Musical director, Mike Ray. (Opened June 5).

BRIDLINGTON

Spa
Forrester-Smith Enterprises in association with the Borough of East Yorkshire present **THE PAUL SQUIRE SHOW** with Wayne Dobson, Simmons Brothers, the Mosatics, Minting Sisters, Sweet Spice, World Famous Walzer Steinswingers, Mike Jason Roadshow, Don Leather and Cindy, Stewart Lee, Annie Laurie, Tyne and Wear, Solid Gold Roadshow, Keith Gordon. (Cambrian). Brian Grant Band, the Squads, Katrina Woodridge, Annabel Page, Wendy Wilson.

BRIGHTSTONE (Isle of Wight)

Brightstone Holiday Centre
B.J.B. Productions Ltd present **TAKE A TRIP** with Jack Tipp, Adam Christie, Joan Savage, Desmond King, Alan Davis, Karen Simmons, Kenny Martyn, Vince Gardner, Michael Grant, Will Pyle, Frank Wheeler, David Gould, Vanessa Gee, Pauline Ash, Lisa Crann, Viv Law, Val Fox. (May 7 to September 28).

BRIXHAM

Pontins Wall Park
Jonathan Wackin Band. (Cambrian).

BURNHAM

Holmarine
Don Parry, D'Amour, Dave Lloyd Roadshow, Fluffy the Magic Rabbit, Diana Dean, Baran Steinwingers, Mike Jason Roadshow, Don Leather and Cindy, Stewart Lee, Annie Laurie, Tyne and Wear, Solid Gold Roadshow, Keith Gordon. (Cambrian). Brian Grant Band, the Squads, Katrina Woodridge, Annabel Page, Wendy Wilson.

BURGH CASTLE

Cherry Farm Caravan and Chalet Club
Ian Simpson, Brian Goodfellow, Johnny Nelson. (R.J. Entertainments) (Anglia) Ltd.

CAMBER

Camber Sands Leisure Park
Ricky Daniels, Celia Giehe, Debbie James, Lesley Russell, Solitaire, Chris Jones, John Stuart, Denny Hodge, Tyne and Wear, Dolphin, Knightbridge, Twin Eagles Disco, Archway Management.

CARMARTHEN BAY

Ladbrokes Holiday Centre
T. Set, Leyton Jeff Duo, Don Leather and

Cindy, Tyne and Wear, Chas Burnett and Kym Allen, Jamie Adams, Ken Harris, Graham Scott. (Cambrian).

CLACTON

Butlins
Ken Russell Duo, Chas Burnett and Kym Allen, Daphne and Southern Sunshine, Russ Stevens, Denny Hodge, Mel Walker, Rouchelles, Micky Zany, Overland Express. (Cambrian).

CLARACH BAY

Glan-y-Mor Holiday Park
Pat Allan Trio, Karen Webb. (Cambrian).

Leisure Caravan Parks

Paul Donnor, Second Edition, Belinda Lee, Jimmy Thomas Duo, Marlene Powell, Bobby Jones, Alan Gibson, Ken Harris, Graham Scott. (Cambrian).

COLWYN BAY

Prince of Wales
SPLIGHT '82 with Peter Robinson, Gladys Ambrose, Julie Craig, David and Dana, Pearl Shaw Dancers. Produced by Geoff Shaw. Choreography by Pearl Shaw. Musical director, Ricky Vernon. Drums, Alan Thompson. (May 10 to September 23).

CORTON

Corton Beach Holiday Centre
Colin Bevan, Romero, the Sandwies, Mike Powell, Chad and Trevor, Carousell, Jaye Ess, Sound, Johnny Nelson Sound, Variation Road Show. (R.J. Entertainments) (Anglia) Ltd.

Corton Caravan and Chalet Club

The Sandwies, Kenny Wall, Two 'n' Time, Jaye Ess Sound. (R.J. Entertainments) (Anglia) Ltd.

Warners Corton Holiday Centre

Ron Gardner's Cupid, Yuri and Tonya, Peter Thomas, Chas McDewitt, Barry and Julie Earnshaw, Tina Barcia, Chubby Oates, Brian Chamberlain.

CROMER

Pier Pavilion
Richard Condon presents **SEASIDE SPECIAL** with Denise Lotis, Frankie Desmond, Sandy and Derrick, Gus Wilson, Jenny Adam, Pat Adams Dancers. Staged and directed by Yvonne Marsh. Designed by Ted Woodley. Choreography by Pat Adams. Costumes by Jenni Goodwin. Musical director, Denis Marriott. (Opens June 28).

CUMBRIA

Solway Lido Holiday Centre
Mr Blue, Andy King, Romanoffs, Jon Brown, Skaler and Keys. (Cambrian).

DAWLISH

Parklands Holidays
Nigel Dean, Graham Scott. (Cambrian).

EASTBOURNE

Congress
Robert Luff Holdings Ltd in association with George Mitchell presents **THE BLACK AND WHITE MINSTREL SHOW** with Roy Walker, Cedric Monarch, David Andre, the Martins, the Mitchell Minstrels, Dai Francis, Ted Darling, Les Want, Adrian Lee, Ali Kirkham, Eileen Mart, Jill Coleman, Michelle, the Mitchell Maids, the Television Toppers, John Steed Orchestra. Staged by Sandy McFarlane. Choreography by Fred Peters. (June 18 to September 16).

Devonshire Park

Newspalm Productions present **MY FAT FRIEND** with John Inman. Written by Charles Ludlum. Directed by Bill Robertson. (August 2 to September 28).

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ROYAL HIPPODROME

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Leisure Caravan Park, Devon Cliffs

Graham Scott, Classic Brothers, Simon John, Sherry Lozano, Sharon Whitbread, Tyne and Wear, Cheryl Charles Duo, Annie Laurie. (Cambrian).

FILEY

Butlins
Cheryl Charles Duo, Civvy Street. (Cambrian).

FOLKESTONE

Leas Cliff Hall
Shawdon Council presents **TOP OF THE TOWN** with Peter Goodfellow, Robert Marlowe, Diane and Julian, Rip van Winkle and Nikki, Nina Brown, Freda Farnworth, Graham Trew, Margaret Sheffield, Eliza Tomlinson, Debbie Rordan, Tina Ware. Devised, produced and choreographed by Robert Marlowe. Musical director, Peter Colls. (June 19 to October 2).

GORLESTON

Cliff Hotel
The Kentones, Johnny Nelson Sound. (R.J. Entertainments) (Anglia) Ltd.

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